Problem of Coaches of German Shatabdi

725. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the German Shatabdi which was cancelled earlier this year following technical problem, is reported to be back on the rails;

(b) whether the train, based on new technology, was found to be incompatible with the Indian Rail system; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the case and the reasons why these coaches were inducted without trials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The services of New Delhi-Lucknow Shatabdi with coaches supplied by M/s ALSTOM LHB are likely to be restored shortly. The necessary modifications have been undertaken by the supplier to overcome the problems experienced.

(b) No, Sir. The new technology is not only compatible with Indian Railway system but is in fact, an improvement over it. However, there were some teething, troubles, which have since been attended.

(c) The coaches were introduced in service only after all the statutory tests such as oscillation trials, braking distance trials, coupler force trials, route proving runs etc. were completed satisfactorily. No problem was experienced either during these trials or during the first two weeks of service from 29.5.2001 to 11.6.2001.

The problem of uncoupling on run was however, experienced subsequently and this problem has since been studied in details along with the manufacturers and necessary modification have been done. Thereafter extensive trials have, once again, been carried out, duly video graphing the coupler behaviour throughout the runs.

Centre Buffer couplers with new type of coupler head were introduced on these LHB coaches for the first time on Indian Railways in order to enhance passenger safety and to enable running

trains of longer composition. Teething troubles do occur whenever any new technology is introduced for the first time, some of which cannot be entirely anticipated during testing and trials.

Schools at Platforms for Begging children

† 726.. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report regarding picking up of childern begging at railway platforms by the Railway Police and educating them, by opening schools at platforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to formulate nation-wide scheme to open such schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is an infonnation regarding opening of such a school known as "KAMANA PADHNA" and "SAKSHARTA KENDRA" by GRP behind Raipur Railway Station in Bilaspur Division of South Eastern Railway since 15.08.2001 with a view to educate homeless, vagabond and handicapped children.

(c) No, Sir.

Computerised Rail Reservation Centres in Gujarat

†727. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Railway stations in Gujarat where reservation of tickets is done through computers at present; and

(b) the additional number of Railway stations in that State wher Government propose to open computerised reservation centres by th end of 2001, giving the station-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Thirty.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.